

Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP)

PSAP offers federally recognized tribes, state tribal liaisons, local governments, councils of governments, and regional planning organizations the opportunity to review and modify select statistical boundaries that the U.S. Census Bureau uses to count people in your community, so that we can give you the most relevant, useful data possible.



Statistical boundaries let us give you the small-area statistics and spatial data you need. You know your local community best. By participating in PSAP, you can help us provide relevant, useful data about population, income, and housing for small-area geographic analyses.



The Census Bureau uses these boundaries to tabulate data for the 2020 Census, the American Community Survey, and the economic census. Data tabulated to PSAP geographies are used by tribal, federal, state, and local agencies for planning and funding purposes, as well as by the private sector, academia, and the public.

Standard statistical geographies include:

- Census tracts
- Census block groups
- Census designated places (CDPs)
- Census county divisions (CCDs)

Tribal statistical geographies include:

- Tribal census tracts
- Tribal block groups
- Tribal designated statistical areas (TDSAs)
- State designated tribal statistical areas (SDTSAs)
- State reservations
- Oklahoma tribal statistical areas (OTSAs)
- OTSA tribal subdivisions
- Alaska Native village statistical areas (ANVSAs)



Statistical vs. Legal Boundaries

A *statistical boundary* breaks down large geographical areas into smaller, local areas. These small-area boundaries let you compare poverty, health, education, and many other topics across local areas.

The Census Bureau also tracks *legal boundaries*—such as state and county borders, city limits, and federally recognized American Indian Reservations—through the Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS).

To learn about PSAP and to obtain the most up-to-date schedule, please visit www.census.gov/programs-surveys/decennial-census/about/psap.html.

For additional assistance, please contact the Census Bureau at [<geo.psap@census.gov>](mailto:geo.psap@census.gov) or 844-788-4921.

How can I participate?

In July 2018, the Census Bureau will invite regional planning agencies, councils of governments, local governments and organizations, and all federally recognized tribes and state tribal liaison offices to participate in PSAP.

If you are interested in PSAP and do not receive an invitation, please visit the PSAP Web site to locate the contact information for your participating local planning agency, council of government, or other organization. Once you have identified and contacted the proper PSAP participant, you will work directly with the PSAP participant, and the PSAP participant will work with the Census Bureau, to review and modify statistical boundaries for your locality. An updated list of PSAP participants will be published on the PSAP Web site in the fall of 2018.

Before the start of PSAP, the Census Bureau will create a proposed set of 2020 PSAP geographies for PSAP participants to review. We will send participants both the 2010 PSAP geography and the proposed 2020 PSAP plan to review.

During the program, participants will work with interested local parties to review the 2020 PSAP plan and send modifications back to the Census Bureau. The Census Bureau provides a free software called Geographic Update Partnership Software (GUPS) for participants to review the boundaries and generate the final 2020 PSAP plan.



Other Census Bureau Geography Programs

As the 2020 Census approaches, tribal, state, and local governments will have several opportunities to provide input on Census Bureau geographic programs. In addition to PSAP, you may hear about these important programs:



The Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA) is the only opportunity offered to tribal, state, and local governments to review and comment on the Census Bureau's residential address list for their jurisdiction prior to the 2020 Census.



The Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) is the primary way that tribal, state, and local governments ensure that their legal boundaries are correctly recorded with the federal government.



Upcoming Key Dates

- March–May 2018: The Census Bureau contacts 2010 Census PSAP participants to inquire about 2020 Census PSAP participation.
- July 2018: The Census Bureau sends an official letter to PSAP participants and state, county, or local points of contacts.
- Fall 2018: List of participating local planning agencies, councils of governments, and organizations published on the PSAP Web site.
- January 2019: PSAP participants receive materials to provide input on the 2020 PSAP plan for statistical boundaries.
- January 2019: PSAP Webinar training begins.
- January 2020: PSAP participants receive an updated 2020 PSAP plan in order to verify that the statistical boundaries are correct.
- December 2020: The Census Bureau begins to release geographies from the 2020 Census.